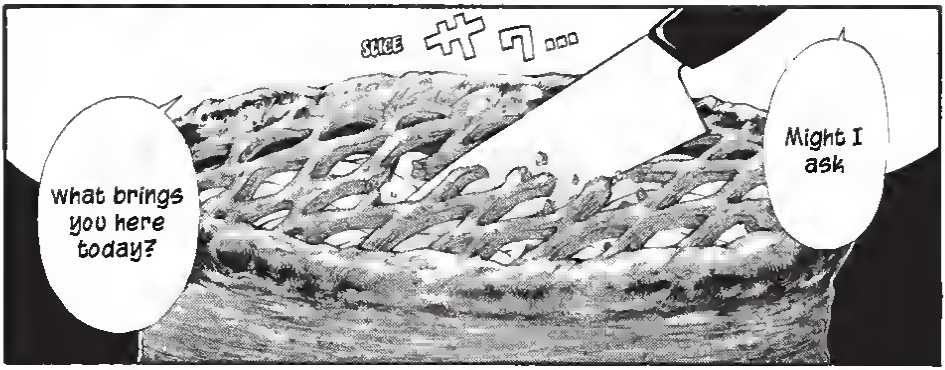
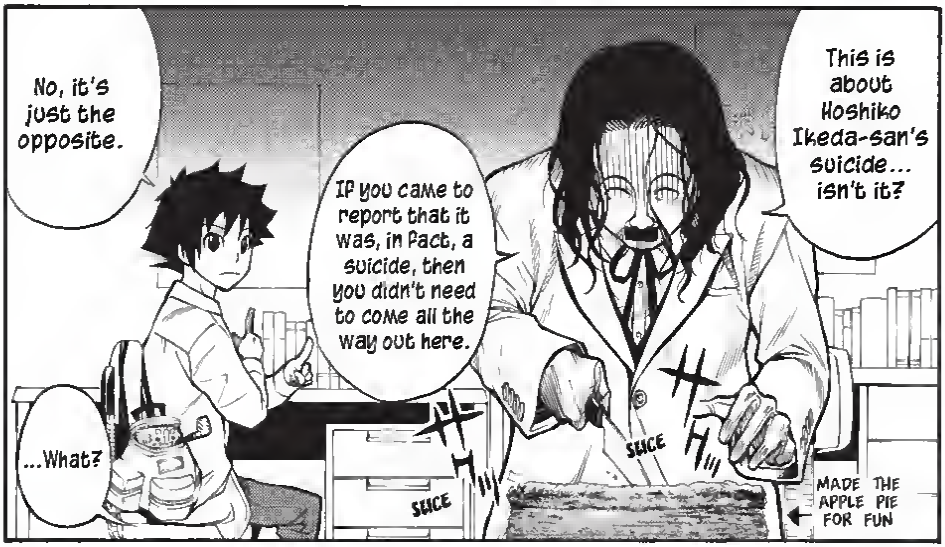
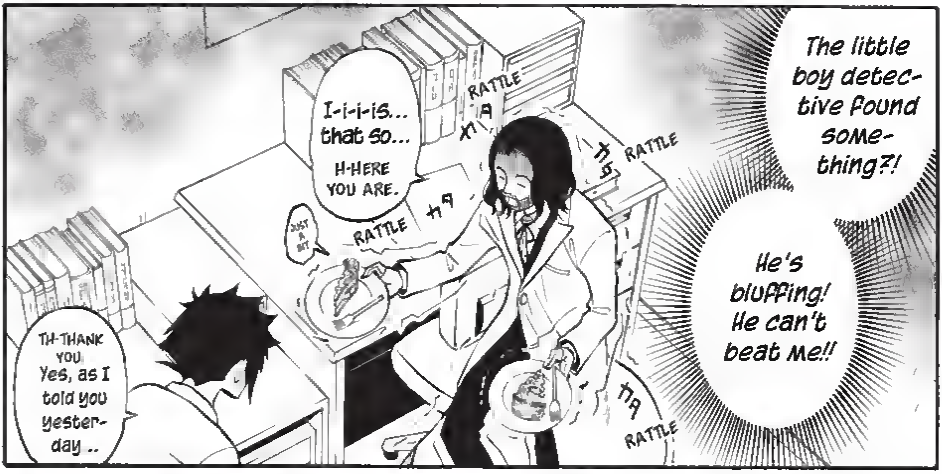

SKREE
Might I ask
what brings you here today?

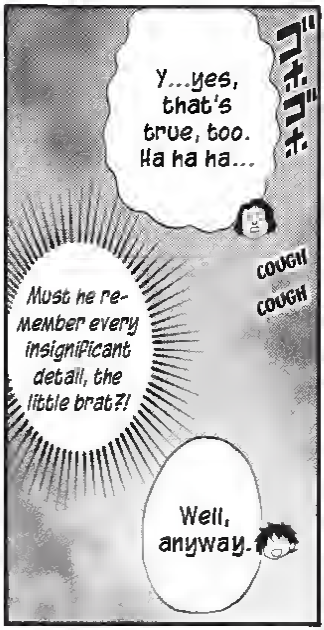

This is about Hoshiko Ikeda-san's suicide... isn't it?
If you came to report that it was, in fact, a suicide, then you didn't need to come all the way out here.
No, it's just the opposite.
...What?
SKREE
SKREE
MADE THE APPLE PIE FOR FUN

It would seem
it really was a homicide.
MURMUR
What...?

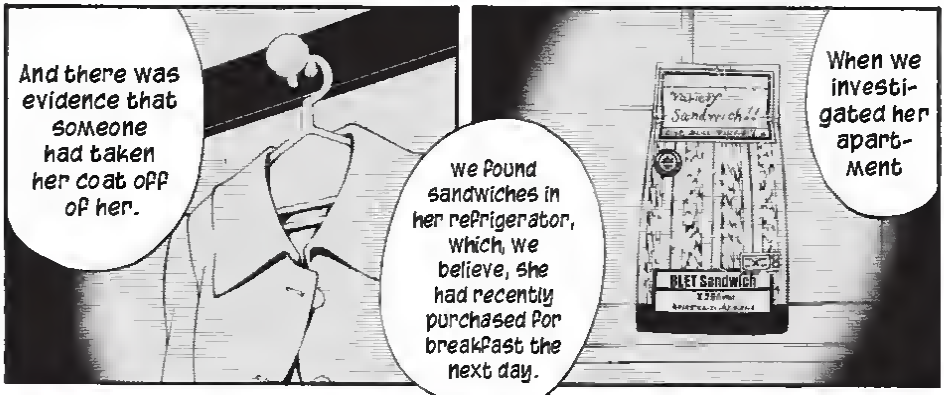

I-i-i-is... that so...
H-HERE YOU ARE.
JUST A BIT
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
TH-THANK YOU. Yes, as I told you yester-day ..
The little boy detec-tive found some-thing?!
He's bluffing! He can't beat me!!

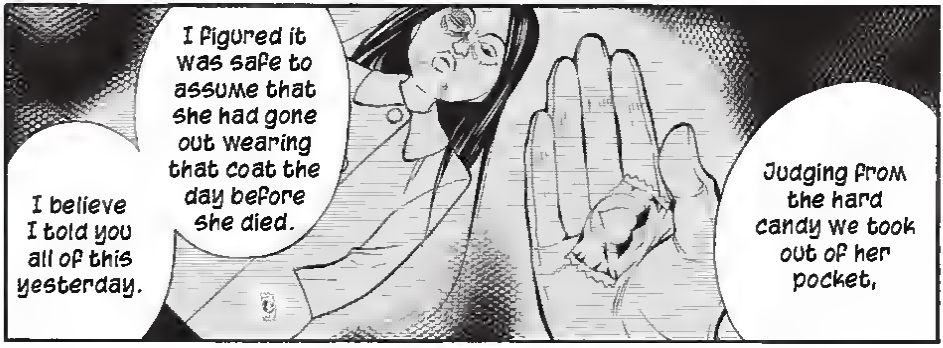
But instead of jumping, which would have been the fastest way to die,
she went through all the trouble to hang herself.
because she went all the way to the roof to kill herself.
I started to suspect something
Add to that...
Somehow, they had gotten wet from the rain, which stopped two hours before the hanging.
I also noticed her clothes.

and I figured there was some sort of cover-up going on.
..the spot on top of the water tower wasn't wet from the rain,
and was just big enough for the victim to have been lying there,
That's why I went to investigate her apartment.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
You have quite the deductive powers for someone so young...
Oh... oho.
And quite the impertinence!
But you see,
Things don't always work out like they would in a mystery novel.
someone on the verge of suicide does a lot of things that can't be explained with logic.
...
Oh, dear. Such provocative eyes...
I know these things. You see, I studied psychology.
I thought it would be useful in cosmetic surgery...
SLURP


Y...yes, that's true, too. Ha ha ha...
COUGH COUGH
Must he remember every insignificant detail, the little brat?!
Well, anyway.

...!!
I thought you said you knew about these types of cases because you like Mystery novels...
Huh? But Sensei, the other day,
MMM
MMM


And there was evidence that someone had taken her coat off of her.
We found sandwiches in her refrigerator, which, we believe, she had recently purchased for breakfast the next day.
When we investigated her apartment
BLT Sandwich

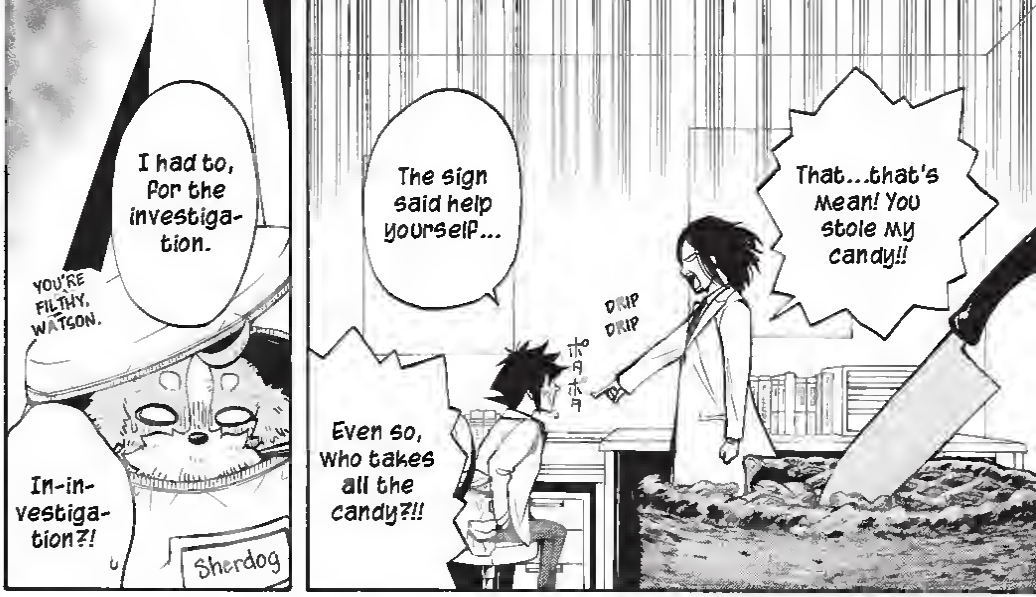

I believe I told you all of this yesterday.
I figured it was safe to assume that she had gone out wearing that coat the day before she died.
Judging from the hard candy we took out of her pocket,

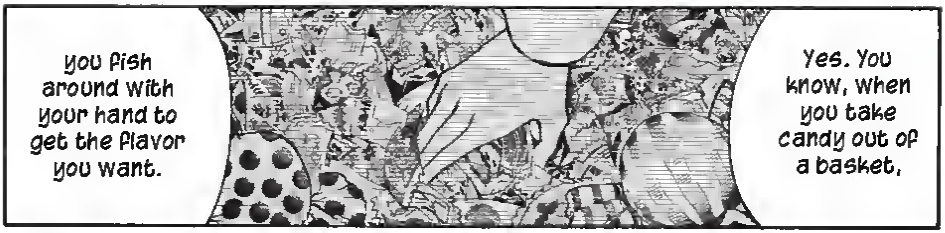
CHOMP
Yes, I remember.
ズズ——!!
S-SIP...
It happened to be the same candy that I have in my waiting room.
CHOMP
But I've already done away with that evidence! Yee hee hee hee!!

You see,
What?

It wasn't a coincidence.

When I came here yesterday,
I helped myself to all of the candy in the basket.
!!
PEELS


I had to, for the investigation.
YOU'RE FILTHY, WATSON.
In-in-vestigation?!
Sherdog
The sign said help yourself...
Even so, who takes all the candy?!!
DRIP DRIP
ポタポタ
That...that's mean! You stole my candy!!


You fish around with your hand to get the flavor you want.
Yes. You know, when you take candy out of a basket,

B-DRIP
I thought she might have left some prints, so I had the crime lab check it out.
If the victim came here the day before she died,

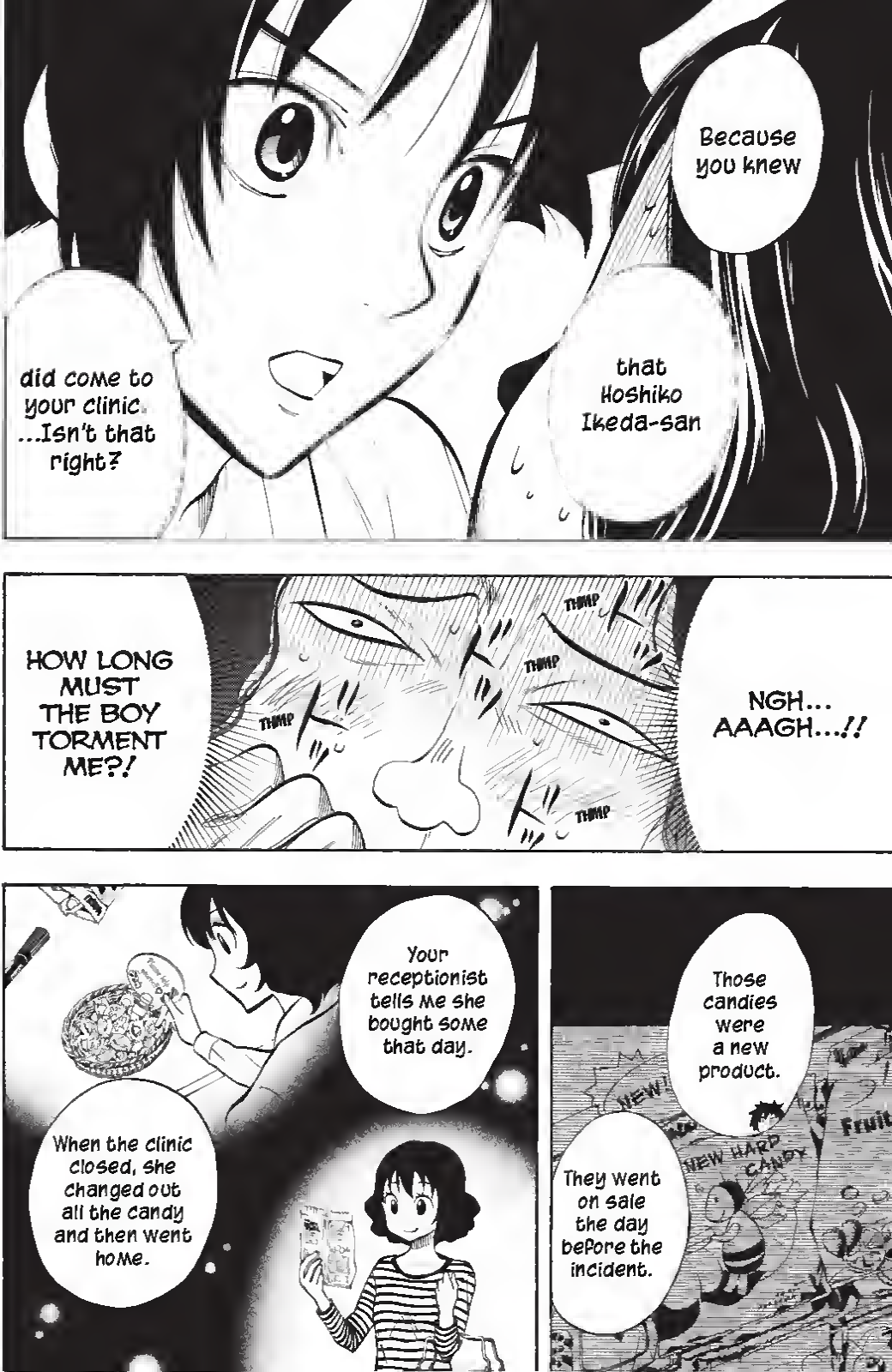
Akane-san... did the victim come to your clinic
the day before she died?
But, uh... Maybe she left without seeing anyone... Hmmm...
SLICE
I...I don't know.
It's possible she wandered in here before she died.
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
...
I'm not really sure...
No, no, no...
No, your receptionist tells me
she refilled the candy basket after the patients left.
Right before she went home.
orry We're Closed

after it was closed.
The victim would have come to the clinic
...
GGGG
That's the only explanation.
When you were the only one here.
Ooohhh, Maybe!!
I KNOW!!
SHAK
PACK
?!
I NEED AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE AN EXCUSE...
WH...WHAT DO I DO? I'M IN A PICKLE!!
OH NO... OH NO... HOW AROUS-ING...I MEAN...
GL...GLURP
GL...GLUR

Maybe Hoshiko-san let herself in!
Tss
Why?
I must have forgotten to lock the front door
Oh, honey...I mean, Detective.
While I was cleaning up for the day!
But the door would have been locked.
Maybe...she really did blame me...
SLUMP
...
...
CLANG
...Because...
What? Because you keep making these absurd accusations, of course!
...
...Why are you so worked up?
THIS MAN'S SPEECH... KEEPS GETTING STRANGER...
She's remembering wrong!
No, she most certainly did not!!
When I talked to your receptionist just now, she said she locked up before she left.
WHY MUST YOU KEEP ASKING ABOUT SUCH TRIFLING DETAILS?!

I never said that.
...What?
Accusations?
YANK
You said Hoshiko Ikeda's fingerprints were on the candy!
That's all I said.
There might be fingerprints, so I took them and had the crime lab analyze them.

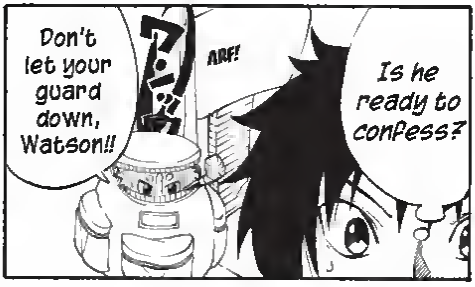
NO FAIR!! THAT'S CHEAT-ING, YOU CHEATER!!
YOU TRICKED ME?!
that there were prints?
Akane-sensei.
I...I-I-I...
...!
Erk...
You would think that!
Did you think

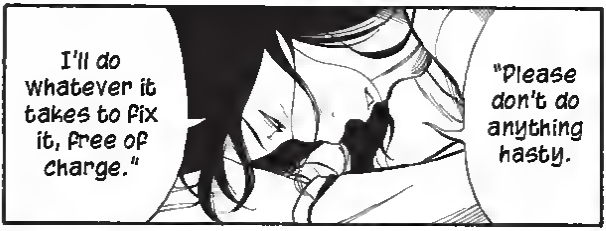

Because you knew
that Hoshiko Ikeda-san
did come to your clinic. ...Isn't that right?
HOW LONG MUST THE BOY TORMENT ME?!
THMP
THMP
THMP
NGH... AAAGH...!!
Your receptionist tells me she bought some that day.
When the clinic closed, she changed out all the candy and then went home.
Those candies were a new product.
They went on sale the day before the incident.
NEW!
NEW HARD CANDY

Sorry
We're Closed
And you were closed yesterday morning.
According to you, no one else came by after that.
CALM DOWN, YOSHITO-CHAN.
Y... you...
YOU STILL HAVE...
and one other person—we assume your receptionist.
When we analyzed the candies...
We found the fingerprints of Hoshiko Ikeda-san,
?!
AN ALIBI!!
BONG

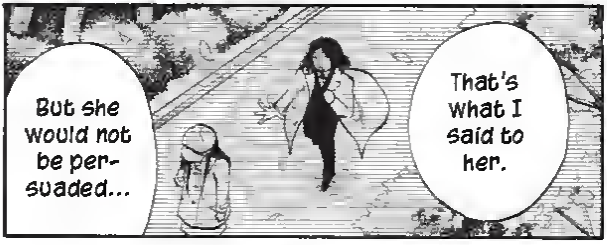
I'm so sorry!
What...?

!
He won't go down that easily!
NOD


Don't let your guard down, Watson!!
ARF!
Is he ready to confess?


I'll do whatever it takes to fix it, free of charge."
"Please don't do anything hasty.

...She came to give me a piece of her mind.
Of course I tried to calm her down.


But she would not be persuaded...
That's what I said to her.

"I don't blame you, Sensei.
Thank you for all you've done."
My one sliver of hope
was the last thing she said to me.
...she said...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
Nice work, Yoshito!! Now everything fits, and you're not the bad guy!!
And how do you like my starlet performance? Well? Oh ho ho ho!!
ARF!
Sic him!
Watson!!

TH-THIS IS CHARACTER ASSASSI-NATION! I'LL SUE!!
WHY WOULD I BE THE KILLER?!
IF the police investigate your home,
I'M sure it won't take them long to find your motive.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
You've been importing illegal drugs
and using them on your patients, claiming they were high-end products.
My sources tell me you were making a killing.
...you killed Hoshiko Ikeda!
...WHAT?!
The truth is...
Huh? What...?
You're lying.
Those are crocodile tears.

B-BE... BESIDES, HOSHIKO KILLED HERSELF IN THE MORN-ING...
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!
WHEN WAS IT? YOU SAID IT WAS SIX OR SEVEN, RIGHT?!
I'LL SUE THEM, TOO!!
Huh...? Did I say that?
YOU DID!
Okay, and?

I have Wit-nesses!
The editors were with me!!
I had gone out early to be interviewed for a golf magazine!
My alibi!
I have an alibi!

They also said you started snoring the second you got in the car to go home.
They said you were extremely sleepy and constantly hitting your ball out of bounds.
Yes...I have their testimonies.

I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE HALF A DAY GOLFING! I HAD TO PICK UP THE SLACK!
HMMM? Working on what?
I-I-I...I WAS NOT!
I WAS AT HOME, WORKING! WORKING! WORKING!!
Sounds like you were up all night!
Up all night... killing Hoshiko Ikeda!!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN ON THE ROOF AT SIX IN THE MORNING
A LAYMAN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!! AND ANYWAY, WHAT ABOUT MY ALIBI?!!
ALIBI ALIBI ALIBI ALIBI!!!!!!!!!
HANGING HOSHIKO BY THE NECK?!! TELL ME THAT!!
...

...What?
and knock it to pieces.
Okay, I will.
I'll take your alibi
to create an ironclad alibi
Cosmetic Surgeon Yoshito Akane.
You used a cruel and heartless trick
and make Hoshiko Ikeda hang herself!!